

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please delete the section beginning at page 2, line 4, which is entitled "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" and please replace it with the following:

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention is a system for obtaining credits, e.g., from a bartering group and converting them to credits for playing games, as in arcade games or other games, and awarding and redeeming coupons. The present invention links barter dollars or other units belonging to an individual with credits for playing games so that the individual can obtain credits to play, and also can be awarded coupons or other items for redemption.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

In a barter network, buyers and sellers (collectively "members") exchange their goods and services for other members' goods and services of equal or different value. Members of the barter network can obtain credits to play games, and the game controller can award coupons to winners or debit their accounts in the gaming system. The coupons may be redeemed.